

## January 2010 Stinger Article

Col Keith "Shadow" Newell

Operations Group Commander

### *Quotes galore ...*

Welcome back from the holidays. I hope everyone had the chance to spend some safe, quality time relaxing with friends and family. I suspect we'll all have to spend some more time in the gym after all those 350-calorie cups of eggnog.

I've never been one who is really in to quotes. I always thought people who used quotes all the time just might not be able to think of anything for themselves. After some analysis though, I actually determined there are quite a few really smart, talented people out there who've said some profound and meaningful things over the years. I'll share a few with you and I'd like you to think of them in terms of our upcoming ORE's and the ORI. I've inserted my ORE/ORI "quote" after each:

"You win with people" – Coach Woody Hayes.

This quote needs no explanation in terms of the 180FW team, and by the way, "Go Bucks!"

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going" – Coach Vince Lombardi

This kicks in about 11 hours in to your shift when we've been in our full chemical gear for over an hour and a half. Make sure you have a wingman – take care of each other both physically and mentally. Positive attitudes are contagious.

"When the going is easy, watch out. You might be going downhill" – Coach Tommy Lasorda

There will be lulls in the ORE/ORI action, but don't let complacency sneak up on you and set it. There is ALWAYS something constructive to keep you busy.

"Judgment comes from experience and experience comes from bad judgment." – Unknown

Let's finish up the bad judgment part in our ORE's so we walk in to the ORI as experienced warriors. It's okay, and sometimes necessary, to make honest mistakes. That's how we learn.

"There is no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs." – Anonymous

Maybe another way of saying this is you reap what you sow. The harder we work and prepare for our inspection, the more likely we are to walk away with that elusive "outstanding" rating.

"Bad ideas can stimulate the good" – Descartes

Speak up – even if it might be the dumbest thing mankind has ever said because when the person standing next to you hears it, they might come up with the greatest idea mankind has ever heard!

"Reading is no substitute for action" – Colleen Wainwright

Once you've read through all the rules and procedures for the ORE/ORI, the only way to "git 'er done" is to get out there and do it.

"It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one" George Washington

The EET inspectors and IG inspectors are ALWAYS right (even when they're wrong)

"Genius is one percent inspiration, 99% perspiration" – Thomas Edison

The only way we get better is to keep at it and work hard.  
“It’s not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what’s required” – Sir Winston Churchill

I’m sure you can fill in the required piece with examples from your functional areas.

“Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win” – Sun-tzu

An old, old quote, but still applicable to us. Preparation is key!

“It ain’t over till it’s over” – Yankees baseball great Yogi Berra

Until we hear the ENDEX words over giant voice, keep working as enthusiastically and aggressively as possible. Often it’s this final impression that is the lasting one for the inspectors as they move off to start grading us and writing the report.

In closing, thanks for your time and patriotism with a special thanks to all of you who have deployed or still have loved ones deployed in harm’s way. I’ll use a quote from Dorothy Gale that I used a few years ago; “There’s no place like home”.